

REMARKS:

Claims 1-5 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as obvious over Paavola et al. in view of Suolahti and further in view of Humphrey. In addition, claims to-4 and 9-11 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Paavola et al. Furthermore, the Examiner has indicated that claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As noted above, by this Amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-11 have been cancel without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter and new claims 12-21 substituted therefor. The substitute claims correspond to the canceled claims after being rewritten in paragraph form to improve their readability and so as to improve their clarity. Furthermore, independent claim 12 has been revised so as to now clearly recite that both the pendulum roller and the deflecting roller are freely rotatable. It is submitted that the present claims are patentable over the cited art, taken either alone or in combination for the following reasons:

As recited in original independent claim 1 and now recited in independent claim 12, the film roll is supported by supporting elements on the frame, the film roll being freely rotatable. In addition, as recited in original independent claim 1 and now recited in independent claim 12, the first and second pre-stretching rollers are recited as being freely rotatably mounted on the frame. Furthermore, as noted above, claim 12 recites that both the pendulum roller and the deflecting roller are freely rotatable.

On the other hand, Figure 1 of Humphrey shows a wrapping machine having a drive motor 20 that drives either one of the pre-stretching rollers 18 or 32 (see lines 48-69 of column 8 thereof). The speed of rotation of the drive motor 20 is controlled by the control mechanism 14 (see lines 4-14 of column 9 thereof).

Figure 9 of Humphrey shows the control of the speed of the pre-stretching rollers 18 and 32. The position of the dancer arms 40 is detected and in response thereto, the speed of the motor is either increased or decreased so as to either increase or decrease the speed of the rollers 18 and 32 (see line 22 of column 11 to line 53 of column 12 thereof).

Figure 11 of Humphrey shows an arrangement having an electromechanical detecting means to control an electrically operated brake 110 used to control the speed of the feed roller 16.

Similarly, Figure 5 of Paavola et al. shows a motor 13 mechanically connected to a pre-stretching roller 11 via pulleys 17 and 18 and belt 19 so as to rotate the pre-stretching roller 11.

Furthermore, Figure 2 of Suolahti shows a wrapping machine having a motor 9 mechanically connected to a foil roll 5 via a pulley and belt arrangement so as to rotate the foil roll 5. A sensor 8 is provided to detect the foil tension and to control the torque, speed of rotation, and direction of rotation of the electric motor 9 in response thereto.

Thus, as noted above, all of the cited references include one or more rollers that are either driven or braked and therefore not freely rotatable as recited in independent claim 12. Therefore, combinations of the cited references would also include one or more rollers that are either driven or braked and therefore not freely rotatable as recited in independent claim 12. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 12 is patentable over the cited references taken either alone or in combination.

It is further submitted that claims 13-15 and 18-21, by their dependency upon claim 12, are also patentable over the cited references taken either alone or in combination. In addition, none of the cited references teach or suggest the gear transmission and transmission ratio recited in claims 20 and 21.

Lastly, it is submitted that claims 16 and 17, corresponding to allowable claims 6 and 7, are also patentable over the cited references taken either alone or in combination.

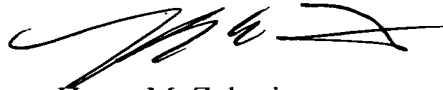
Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 12-21 are patentable over the cited references taken either alone or in combination and should therefore now be in a condition suitable for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, please charge any shortage in fee due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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